



Regulars, By God!



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U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Jason R. Krawczyk, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers from the Iraqi Army and 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division pull security while awaiting extraction from a raid. For full story and more photos, see Page 3.



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Regulars achieve countrywide

By Lt. Col. Matthew G. Elledge
1st Bn. 22nd Inf. Regt.

To the Regular Family,

Well we are half way through our deployment and positive change has occurred since the Regulars have moved into the Abu Gharib Qada (County).

The Battalion immediately went to work with the Iraqi populace to identify their concerns with their quality of life and security. We have made tremendous strides within the different Nahias (towns) towards improving their different areas.

In an effort to help the Iraqis take charge of their own destiny we will conduct a governmental Qada meeting with all the Nahia counsel members and try to prioritize how we are going to fix their issues.

The companies have done a tremendous job in helping to set the grounds for security with an Iraqi face. They all went to work to immediately to dismantle the Al Qaeda Iraq, and Mahdi Militia by detaining the top tier elements of these organizations. These actions have allowed us to work with the Iraqi security forces and build confidence in themselves as well as

showing the Iraqi people that their own security forces can and will maintain a rule of law within their area. Even with some of the set backs that we and the Iraqi populace have had, this area continues to move in the right direction as the Iraqis take charge of their own destiny.

Some highlights to date:

The Gators and the Dealers conducted a successful operation in rescuing one of our own (the soldier was from a different battalion) from an AQI cell that had kidnapped him earlier in the deployment and continued to move him around the Raider brigade area.

Team Bear not only captured the "Number 2" cell leader of the AQI cell but successfully captured the "Number 1" AQI cell leader in our area during an air assault operation.

Team Copperhead found the largest cache in our area to date and the information gained from that cache has led to several arrests as well as quieted the area for quite some time now.

The Killers are busy improving the lives and welfare of the citizens of Al Batha by providing humanitarian assistance and starting initial preparation of a Joint

Security Station that will house both Iraqi Police, Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces thereby creating a concentrated effort from all forces in keeping and maintaining peace throughout the Al Batha region.

The Soldiers of Hammer, although spread throughout the task force continue to be a catalyst for any unit they are assigned to. Without their significant contributions throughout our formation we would not be as successful as we are.

Lastly, **the Eliminators** continue to work tireless hours to ensure that this battalion is fueled, fed and armed to maintain pressure on the enemy and support the local Iraqi Security Forces and populace as they continue to move towards self governance.

Everyday, your Soldiers put their lives on the line for the Iraqi people as well as our way of life. They give their all everyday and their efforts have made this area better than when we came to it. I am honored to serve with every one of them.

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Regulars establishing operations in Iraq

By Command Sgt. Maj. Major Richard Beal

1st Bn. 22nd Inf. Regt.

The Regulars recently completed our move to occupy Forward Operating Base Raider, which is one of several FOBs that ring the Baghdad International Airport in the central-western portion of the city.

The Soldiers are adjusting very well to their new “home” and are already making a positive impact in our area of operation. The quality of life facilities on FOB Raider are adequate (although not as good as we had it on FOB Liberty – but it will have to do) and the few amenities here should make life a little easier and more enjoyable for the Soldiers during off-duty times.

We completed all tasks associated with RIP/TOA (Relief in Place/Transfer of Authority) with the outgoing unit on FOB Raider in good order. The transition between units went extremely

against the enemy. We gauge our effectiveness here on two categories: effectiveness against the enemy, and effects of our efforts in support of the population and government. As you read this newsletter further, you will find more details about each of these subjects discussed within each company’s column. But, let me just take a moment to provide a quick summary:

Effectiveness against the enemy: In our own assessment – excellent. Our companies, although executing varied missions, each contribute to weakening the enemy’s efforts to dominate the population and inflict their influence in our area of operations. Our presence on the battlefield, our missions to interdict supply caches, safe houses, and known enemy locations are disrupting the enemy’s operations in our area.

We know this through several sources of information and by battle

– excellent. The center of gravity in any insurgency is the population and whichever side controls the population will succeed in either winning the insurgency or stopping the insurgency. We engage the population in our area daily. The people tell us that since we arrived, they feel safer, they feel like we are actually here to help them, and that is getting better overall. We have many planned public projects, some of which have been started. The people of the area are presented daily with the evidence that cooperation with the coalition brings benefits to them and their families.

And, as always, at the “tip of the spear” on all of these endeavors are the Soldiers of this great battalion. They work incredibly long hours each day but they have never failed to accomplish anything they were asked to do. Their spirits, their morale, their incredibly patriotic dedication to duty are the hallmarks to their profession that will leave lasting impressions upon the people we interact with daily.

The Soldiers of the Regular Battalion are doing outstanding work over here and you should be proud of them all. Keep them in your prayers and we anxiously look forward to our redeployment. Thanks to all of you back home who keep our homes and lives in order back there – we couldn’t do what we do here without what you do for us back home. Until next month, thanks for your great support to the battalion, and may God continue to bless America.

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"The Soldiers of the Regular Battalion are doing outstanding work over here and you should be proud of them all."

Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Beal

1st Bn, 22nd Inf. Regt.

well and we feel confident that we will continue working the area aggressively and helping the people of the new AO Regulars. For the outgoing unit, we wish them great success and the best of luck for their future operations and their safe return home to their loved ones.

Since our arrival, we have conducted a very aggressive campaign

tracking patterns of enemy activity. Several of the companies have executed some outstanding air assault missions this month that yielded great results. We will continue to put the pressure on the enemy as long as we work in this area.

Effects on the population and government: In our own assessment

Air assault raid captures 4

Story and Photos by Sgt. Jason R. Krawczyk

13th Public Affairs Det.

Service members on Forward Operating Base Raider can sleep easier tonight knowing that 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, has captured four insurgents responsible for recent mortar attacks on the FOB.

Approximately 30 Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers air assaulted into the objective using two UH-60 Black hawks. The teams moved in two chinks and made two round trips to drop off the personnel. The first UH-60 load secured the perimeter until the second arrived to search the buildings for any insurgents.

"This was a well executed mission, the planning and the execution went off with out a hitch. We got the insurgents and didn't lose anyone, anytime that happens it is a success," said Capt. Drew Conover, commander, Co. A, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.



Above: A UH -60 gunner with 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, watches the area while enroute to find the mortar team.

Below: Soldiers from 3rd Plt., Co. A, 1st Bn., 22 Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. secure the area after dismounting their UH -60.



Two weapons caches found; suspect in custody

Story and Photos by Pfc. Adam C. Blazak
13th Public Affairs Det.

The Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces discovered two caches of weapons Friday in Karabila, Iraq.

“We found five AK-47s in one cache, and a rocket propelled grenade with round, a 155 artillery piece and two shells in another cache,” said Staff Sgt. Paul H. Marler, with Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Once a weapons cache is found, security is adjusted so troops can move in and freely explore the site. Soldiers then see if the area is booby-trapped, photos are taken of what was discovered where they lie, then wait for the explosive ordnance device unit to arrive to destroy the weapons, he said.

“Caches can easily be detected,” said Sgt. David B. Bishop, with Co. B, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st

BCT, 4th Inf. Div, who is currently attached to Co. D, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. “We look for loose or disturbed dirt, and long beeps on our metal detectors.” We definitely disrupted their supply of weapons, he said.

The owner of the land adjacent to where the caches were found was detained and is in the process of being questioned, Marler said.

The owner, a farmer in Karabila, was tending his field along the wood line with a shovel in his hand, when the troops arrived.

Upon searching the suspect, a shovel, lip balm, his wallet and a notebook were found, Bishop said.

“We search everywhere on the



A view of the weapons cache found by Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces.

suspect for our safety,” he said.

The notebook is currently being translated to see if there is a link between the caches and the farmer, Bishop said. The mission was important because the weapons were potential roadside bombs, which could have been used against us, he explained.

“The mission was a success,” Bishop said. This was the unit’s first mission in Iraq after touching down just three days ago.

Ubaydi meeting addresses significant issues

Story and Photos by Pvt. Christopher Gaylord
13th Public Affairs Det.

U.S. Armed Forces and local nationals met to discuss current issues within the village of Ubaydi Saturday. Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division met with leaders of the village to talk over resolutions that will help them become self-sufficient.

“We’re working on fostering better relations between coalition forces and local nationals,” said 1st

Lt. Charles F. Goodwin, executive officer of Co. B, 1st Bn., 22 Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Infantry Division.

The unit began the meeting by offering a large amount of bottled water to Mostufa Mohammed Al-Dulami, the village sheik. Goodwin spoke with the sheik, and offered solutions to major concerns.

Al-Dulami addressed the issue of needing water for his village, due to two of its four sewage pumps being inoperable, Goodwin said.

Al-Dulami spoke of a lack of security for the drivers who bring food into their village from Baghdad, and Goodwin offered to

arrange more patrols to cover the roads near the village.

“We need food right away and security to bring our food in,” Al-Dulami said.

Al-Dulami talked about strange people in the village from time to time.

“I know everyone in my village, and I see a lot of people in my village I don’t recognize,” Al-Dulami said. “We heard the Shiites take our food and sell it to the highest bidder.”

Goodwin gave Al-Dulami a hotline number for the people of his

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Iraqi Army, Co. D capture top two targets

Story and Photos by Sgt. Joy Pariente
13th Public Affairs Det.

Iraqi Army soldiers, with help from the 4th Infantry

Division, captured an Al Qaeda cell leader and his second in command during a cordon and search Saturday in Karabila. After questioning townspeople, the

Iraqi soldiers and Company D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Inf. Div. found their targets and quickly apprehended them.

These arrests will affect Al Qaeda activities in the area and help the Iraqi government gain authority in the area, explained Capt. Nathaniel B. Davis, commander, Co. D. Another possible suspect was arrested and four confirmed terrorists were killed during the patrol. The Soldiers of Co. D, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. were poised, confident and professional in today's action," Davis said.

The 1st Bn, 22nd Inf. Regt. battalion commander, Lt. Col. Matthew G. Elledge, was also in Karabila visiting the town's sheik. They discussed issues with medicine, food and water in the town. A plan for aid will be worked out when Elledge meets with the sheik later this week.



An Iraqi Army soldier and a Co. D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division Soldier guard a civilian awaiting questioning in connection to an Al Qaeda cell operating in Karabila.

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village to call in the case of a suspicious sighting, said Hashissem Mohammed, the vegetable market owner of Ubaydi, who also attended the meeting.

"We need to know when you see strange vehicles or hear talk of caches or training grounds," Goodwin said to Al-Dulami. "If we help with projects, you have to help us with the insurgency."

Al-Dulami was also concerned about not having electricity for the village, due to an inoperable generator.

"Tomorrow, when Captain Kennedy comes out, we'll bring a

mechanic to fix the generator," Goodwin said to Al-Dulami. "We can show you how to fix it yourself."

The teahouse owner of the village addressed damage his shop had suffered to Goodwin.

Goodwin agreed to take a look at the teahouse damage and offered to have it repaired.

"We will do what we can to help with the teahouse reparations as quickly as possible," Goodwin said to Al-Dulami. "We will request \$250, but we don't know what we'll get."

Some other issues addressed

were a lack of policemen, weapons and vehicles for them, and no radios.

"We have no radios, only one police car and no money to pay our police," said Al-Dulami to Goodwin. In the end, Goodwin agreed that the armed forces would help the village of Ubaydi with its projects if they would help with the insurgency in return.

The meeting went well, and in the end, Goodwin spoke positively of the mission.

"It's good that the villagers understand that we're there to help, but not do everything for them," Goodwin said.